

THE CHARITIES REVIEW

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Outdoor Relief
in
Scotland.

Hon. Morton Stuart presented an exhaustive paper before the council of the London charity organization society on July 18, on the relief of the able-bodied poor in Scotland. It appears that in that country an able-bodied destitute person is not, as in England, "entitled to public relief." Outdoor relief is the practice, and, no doubt, there is often an able-bodied member of a family which obtains grants, but the intention is that relief shall not be extended unless the natural breadwinner is incapacitated from old age or sickness. Generally speaking, persons under fourteen years of age, or above seventy, are presumed to be unable to maintain themselves.

The underlying idea is that in ordinary circumstances the able-bodied are capable of taking care of themselves. In cases of exceptional misfortune it is thought better to entrust the provision of relief so far as the able-bodied are concerned to private charity. This principle is not fully carried out in practice. Many able-bodied men and women are, in fact, found to be receiving public assistance either in the workhouse or in their own homes. This

is to be accounted for by the complaisance of certifying physicians who, if they think it would be a hardship that relief should be refused, can usually find some infirmity to justify a favorable report. The two most interesting aspects of the situation in Scotland are the wide-spread prevalence of private almsgiving and the multiplication of charitable enterprises for relief by work as a measure of supplying the gap left by the absence of public provision for able-bodied men out of work. "Edinburgh," says a leading member of the medical profession, "has more beggars and more charitable organizations than any other town in the kingdom."

The charity organization societies and similar private associations do not, as in England, confine their efforts to the care of families above the pauper grade. They feel it incumbent upon them, if they are to make headway against indiscriminate alms-giving, to satisfy the public that men who are destitute and are willing to work shall not suffer for lack of an opportunity. Either a special labor test, such as a wood-yard or a stone-yard, is maintained by the society, or a special arrangement is

made with municipal authorities to supply work. In the latter case a plan is usually agreed upon by which the municipal authority provides, supervises, and pays for the work, while the association selects the applicants, and more or less guarantees their claims to this form of relief. The Edinburgh association for improving the condition of the poor, founded in 1868, has maintained a factory since 1870 as a means of providing work. This association has established many special enterprises, but in several of these all connection with the parent association has been severed.

On the whole, Mr. Stuart appears to think that, while agencies have multiplied, the organization of charity in its proper sense has been neglected. The actual case work undertaken by the societies is inferior to that of some of the English and American societies. Too much reliance has been placed upon agencies for providing work; not enough upon the watchful care of families and the provision of adequate assistance of the kind that prevents a recurrence of need. The old Scotch recognition of the rights of the licensed beggar survives in a feeling that it is inhuman to refuse alms. The absence of a final right to relief even in the workhouse strengthens this feeling, and, in the absence of any general police suppression of vagrancy, makes the task of organized charity extremely difficult. The country in which Dr. Chalmers discovered, and to a large extent put into actual operation, the principles of sound

charitable relief thus has its lessons, in large part, to learn anew, a task which seems necessary for each generation in every country.

**Industrial
Education
for Cuban
Negroes.**

Booker Washington, the irrepressible, is promptly on hand at the close of the war with the following thesis, in a letter to the *Christian Register*: "I believe all will agree that it is our duty to follow the work of destruction in Cuba with that of construction." Of course all who know Mr. Washington scent at once some new scheme on hand to extend the influence and usefulness of Tuskegee, as appears in the succeeding sentences: "One-half of the population of Cuba is composed of mulattoes or negroes. All who have visited Cuba agree that they need to put them on their feet the strength that they can get by thorough intellectual, religious, and industrial training, such as is given at Hampton and Tuskegee. In the present depleted condition of the island, industrial education for the young men and women is a matter of the first importance. It will do for them what it is doing for our people in the south."

Among the many new industrial influences which will at once begin to be felt in Cuba and Porto Rico there is no reason why the presence of a few graduates of Hampton and Tuskegee or Atlanta should not be helpful. Of course Mr. Washington, as well as every other person acquainted with the characteristics of the tropical negro, would be careful not to promise too much from such a plan. In

Jamaica, under the careful English system of training, many young negroes show for a few years a development superior to that of white children of the same age, but as they approach maturity this is supplanted by a native lethargy which makes all the work of past years seem in vain. Still, if any institution can help them, Tuskegee ought to, and Mr. Washington's plan of securing annual scholarships of \$150 each for a number of the most promising young men and women of the islands is worthy of trial. The work will be commenced as soon as funds are secured or guaranteed.

Illinois
Notes.

It will be interesting to the readers of the REVIEW who live in settlements to know that Hull house will add to its equipment a large auditorium for dramatic purposes. The present arrangements in the gymnasium have long been insufficient to supply the needs for a playhouse, concert, and lecture-room. Already \$12,000 has been subscribed by friends. The building is to be three stories high. The lower floor will be used as a coffee-house of more ample proportions than the former one. The kitchen will be centrally located for the use of the residents' quarters as well as the restaurant. The second and third stories will contain the audience room prepared to seat 350 or 400 persons. Hull house has several dramatic clubs and this audience room will be fitted up with a stage and the necessary appliances to permit these clubs to present in a fairly adequate manner any farces or plays they desire.

The Jane club (named after Jane Addams) is to have a new building of three stories. Arrangements will be made to give all the ordinary comforts in the way of baths, single bedrooms, kitchen, laundry, wheel-room, and ample social and living rooms, to this club of coöperative working girls. For the three dollars a week which each of the twenty-eight girls now pays there will be a far greater return, not only in necessities, but also in pleasant, artistic homelikeness, than could be obtained in any ordinary boarding-house.

On July 24 last occurred the laying of the corner-stone of the Chicago home for Jewish orphans. The former accommodations were far too small and a new building had become a necessity. Twenty-seven thousand dollars has already been subscribed, and plans made for a four-storied fireproof building of white stone. The plan includes a swimming tank, gymnasium, and cooking school. Among other splendid arrangements is an isolated sick ward for contagious diseases.

By means of an immense fair and bazaar, to be conducted for ten days, beginning November 28, and which will conclude with a charity ball, the young men's Hebrew association expects to clear \$100,000. One half is pledged to the Michael Reece hospital and the rest to the united Hebrew charities. The association will begin soliciting donations and selling tickets of raffles of many valuable articles in the next few days. Among the things pledged are \$10,000 worth of gold bonds, to be raffled by lot,

several valuable diamonds and other gems, a team of blooded horses, a house and lot, and other articles. In all about forty committees will be at work in Chicago for the purpose of canvassing.

Institutions for the care of involuntary poor grow apace in Chicago. Mr. Otto Young is now building a four-story fireproof addition to the Chicago home for incurables. It will cost \$60,000, and will be finished in marble. The building is connected with others by a tunnel, but is otherwise entirely isolated and will be used for incurable tubercular patients. As is true of the entire home, only those cases who are too poor to pay will be received. Most of the rooms will be single ones and all open to the east, south, or west sun. In the center of the building is an enormous oriel window for the use of patients. When finished the building will be turned over to the management of the president, H. N. Higinbotham.

An addition of the same size and construction costing \$40,000 is just finished. It was given by D. B. Shipman, and will receive the regular incurable cases. There will be thirty-six single and twenty-four double rooms.

Mr. Otto Young has also built, under his own supervision, a cottage for the Chicago orphan's asylum. There will be the most modern arrangements for the accommodation of fifty-four inmates.

The vacation schools in Chicago have been phenomenally successful. In the five schools, supported entirely

by private benevolence, there have been more than could be conveniently cared for. Children have pleaded to obtain entrance. Next year the board of education may undertake to maintain a sufficient number to satisfy the appeals.

The appropriation of \$1,000 by the city, under the small parks' appropriation, to the vacation school playgrounds' committee has enabled them to maintain six vigorous centres to educate, train, and inspire children to play. In each there has been the necessary apparatus and an athletic director and kindergartner.

Commissioner of health Reynolds, of Chicago, with the aid of the milk shippers' association, which is, at the time of writing, in session in Chicago, contemplates a movement for the prevention of much of the disease now caused by impure milk. Commissioner Reynolds has tried in vain to secure legislation which would provide for a staff of inspectors to regularly examine the dairies in this state. His present plan is to show the advantage to the dairymen of selling pure milk. This problem to the poor is always an important one, especially so when it either makes sick or is used to build up the sick. The following words of the assistant chief of the dairy division of the United States department of agriculture are economic platitudes:

"About 51,000,000 cows supply the milk which is consumed in its natural state in this country; the average amount used by each person being twenty-five gallons per year,

or an ordinary sized tumbler full each day. The milk producers and city milk dealers have it in their power to greatly increase these numbers by furnishing a perfect milk and increasing the confidence of the many consumers in the purity of the product and by educating the public as to the value of milk as a food."

The Indianapolis vacation school has been most successful. The funds were subscribed by the women's clubs and private individuals. It is believed that next year the public school system will adopt the venture.

Trans-Mississippi Conference of Charities and Correction. Interest in the trans-Mississippi conference, to be held at Omaha, September 15-20, as noted in last month's REVIEW, is spreading through the west. Special rates are offered on all railroads, and hotel accommodation has been secured by the management. The following speakers have already consented to take part: Governor Holcomb, of Nebraska; C. E. Faulkner, of Minneapolis, on state boards of control; H. H. Hart, general secretary of the national conference of charities and correction, on advisory boards of charities; W. W. Hale, of Dayton, Ohio, on manual training and education in state reformatories; major W. S. R. Burnette, of Davenport, Iowa, on the system of placing children in homes; A. O. Wright, of Madison, Wisconsin, on dependent children in institutions; professor Chas. R. Henderson, president of the

national conference of charities and correction, two papers, on municipal and county charities, and the charity organization idea; J. F. Jackson, of St. Paul, Minnesota, on the application of the charity organization idea to cities of 5,000 to 20,000 inhabitants; Geo. Mogridge, of Glenwood, Iowa, on treatment of the feeble-minded. Mr. N. S. Rosenau, of New York; J. S. Appel, of Denver, Colorado; Rev. D. E. Shawhan, of Kansas City, and others are expected to be present, and will speak on important subjects.

**New Jersey
Kindergartens.**

The kindergarten as an idea and as reality is spreading everywhere. It goes through the familiar process of all good things—first opposition, then trial under suspicion and contempt, then welcome, warm and enthusiastic. Such is its history in all places where it has gone. Such is its history to-day in New Jersey, as two recent cases will show. Two years ago in Newark a small body of women formed themselves into a kindergarten club for the purpose of arousing public interest in the idea of child culture. At their own expense and under their own care they established kindergartens as an object lesson to the school board. The lesson was learned, the idea "took," and, as a result, kindergartens are attached to thirty-three public schools in all parts of the city.

More recent is a movement in Elizabeth. A few months ago Mrs. E. E. Williamson, president of the woman's civic federation, made a personal offer to the Elizabeth school

board to equip and manage a public kindergarten at her own expense. The city was to provide a place and the furniture needed. This was done and a summer kindergarten is now open and at work at school no. 3. It is a bright success and is winning friends every day. Begun as an experiment, there is little doubt that it will go and grow as a permanent fact.

Employment Exchange. An efficient trained nurse wishes position as matron or head nurse. A charity organization society wishes a woman to superintend laundry and employment bureau. This is not the same position as was mentioned in the REVIEW last month. Communication can be made by interested parties through this office, enclosing stamp.

Reading for the Blind. Dr. Hale tells in the *Christian Register* of a plan established by Mr. Young, the librarian of congress, for the entertainment and instruction of blind people which could readily be carried out in any large town or city having a public library.

He has opened a large room, easily accessible in the library, to which any blind persons may repair every afternoon, in the months of autumn and winter, sure that some gentleman or lady will be there, ready to read aloud to any audience which may assemble. It is proved that such audiences are frequently quite large. And the steadiness with which the reading goes forward, rain or shine, hot or cold, gives courage to the hearers to attend, so that no special announcement is needed. It is something of which one is certain.

So soon as Mr. Young proposed this excellent plan to the gentlemen and ladies whom he called upon in Washington, he found no difficulty in enlisting volunteers who were ready to read. In many instances, gentlemen and ladies of distinction read from their own works, on invitation; and the hearers thus had an additional pleasure in associating, after such a reading, the voice and manner and spirit of an author with his writings.

But no such additional attraction as this is needed to call together a grateful audience. In a city as large as Washington is, or Boston, there are many people who, by blindness, are deprived of the pleasure and profit which the rest of us derive from books. The proportion of the blind who have not learned to read embossed print is large. And those who can read with their fingers' ends have but a limited and not extensive collection of embossed books to read from.

On the other side, there are many ladies and gentlemen in town who would willingly contribute, as readers, to give to their blind friends and neighbors such pleasant afternoons as are opened to them by this plan.

**Dayton
Fresh-Air
Outings.**

To the Editors of The Charities Review: I have spent a good deal of time planning how, with only men on the board of directors and myself a comparative stranger starting an entirely new work, we could interest the ladies of the community in the work of the associated charities and thereby discover and, if possible, secure wise friendly visitors from among them.

I think the plan that has resulted has some new features, and at any rate bids fair to be a success. Already a number of ladies have taken families and are doing helpful and intelligent service.

Heretofore there has been absolutely no provision for any sort of fresh air charity in Dayton. The associated charities, realizing the need, arranged for a series of outings, one each week during the season, different families to be invited each time. The entertaining has been in charge of different groups of ladies who have devoted the day to the work, and herein lies the extraordinary and many sided success that has attended the effort. Two circles of King's daughters, one Epworth league, the young woman's league, an influential organization of young women, and the colored woman's christian association have each taken a day so far, the latter, assisted by white ladies, having charge of an outing for the colored people. Two splendid meals are served, the dinner furnished by the associated charities and the supper by the entertaining society. About one hundred are invited to each outing, and all expenses are paid, including street-car fare.

These outings have been a decided gain to the work in at least four ways: First—The five hundred people who have attended have received a day of pleasure absolutely free from care and worry, with congenial companions and an abundance of appetizing and well prepared food. Such a day many of them never spent before. One woman who had not been in the woods for twelve years, speaking of the ice cream she had eaten at the outing a number of days before, said: "It was so good, I feel it yet." Second—It has given the associated charities knowledge of the present condition of families who are usually dependent in the winter. Third—It has brought the ladies who have entertained into right and natural relations with the poor, and is indicative to them of the line of work the associated charities is attempting. These

outings are in no sense "charity" picnics, but simply an opportunity for rest and recreation shared by the more fortunate with those who are less fortunate. It would be difficult to find any class distinction at the outings, or to discover which of the two, the guests or the entertainers, have the best time. Fourth—From these acquaintances, made so naturally at the outing, the steps to friendly visiting and progressively helpful relations are comparatively clear and simple.

One group of young women is visiting the families who attended the outing at which they entertained, and will themselves invite them to another later in the season.

I send this to you, thinking it may possibly be of suggestive value to some one who has the same problem. I think the question of obtaining friendly visitors is always a problem in this sort of work.

EDWARD A. FAY,
General Secretary.

Dayton, Ohio.

Money-
Lending
in England.

The select committee appointed by the house of commons to inquire into the evils attendant upon the system of professional money-lending, make some vigorous statements regarding the system. After considering much direct evidence, as well as the opinion of public officials who are in frequent contact with its victims, the committee, in their own words, "have unhesitatingly come to the conclusion that the system of money-lending by professional money-lenders at high rates of interest is productive of crime, bankruptcy, unfair advantage over other creditors of the borrower, extortion from the borrower's fam-

ily and friends, and other serious injuries to the community. And although your committee are satisfied that the system is sometimes honestly conducted, they are of opinion that only in rare cases is a person benefited by a loan obtained from a professional money-lender, and that the evils attendant upon the system far outweigh the good. They therefore consider that there is urgent need for the interposition of the legislature with a view to removing the evils."

**Remedies
Proposed.**

Your committee regard it as of the utmost importance that no legislation should interfere with legitimate trading, and it has therefore been necessary for them to consider in what way transactions of professional money-lenders may be distinguished from ordinary commercial transactions. No satisfactory definition of the term "money-lender" has been suggested, but several important witnesses have expressed the opinion that the term is sufficiently well understood to render a definition unnecessary, and that any attempt at definition might give rise to risk of confusion.

After careful consideration, your committee have come to the conclusion that the transactions will be sufficiently distinguished by the expression "transactions with a person carrying on the business of a money-lender in the course of such business."

The two fundamental proposals which have been made to your committee for remedying the evils are:

That parliament should enact that any interest above a certain rate on loans advanced by professional money-lenders should be irrecoverable at law, or

That the courts should have power

to go behind any contract with a money-lender, to inquire into all the circumstances of the original loan, and of the subsequent transactions, and to make such order as may be considered reasonable.

After giving the reasons which have induced the committee not to recommend any statutory limitations of interest, the report proceeds:

After carefully considering the whole of the evidence and opinions, your committee have arrived at the conclusion that the only effective remedy for the evils attendant upon the system of money-lending by professional money-lenders is to give the courts absolute and unfettered discretion in dealing with these transactions. They, therefore, recommend

That all transactions, by whatever name they may be called, or whatever their form may be, which are in substance transactions with persons carrying on the business of a money-lender in the course of such business, should be open to complete judicial review.

That in all legal proceedings to enforce, or for any relief in respect of, a claim arising out of such transactions, the court should have power to inquire into all the circumstances of such transactions from the first transaction up to the time of the judicial inquiry.

That in such proceedings the court shall have power to reopen any account stated in the course of such transactions, to direct that an account be taken upon the basis of allowance of such a rate of interest as shall appear to be reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances, and to make such order as the court may think fit.

That, having regard especially to the fact that money-lenders frequently take from borrowers promissory notes or bills of exchange which

are negotiable, and to which consequently the borrower would have no defence against the claims of a holder in due course, as well as to other considerations, it is necessary to provide, in order to do complete justice between the parties, that the court should have power to direct repayment by the money-lender to the borrower of any amount which upon taking the account may appear to have been paid by the borrower over and above the amount which the court may direct to be reasonably due from him to the money-lender.

That a borrower from a money-lender should be enabled, notwithstanding any provision or agreement to the contrary, to apply to the court at any time to redeem any security, or for relief on the part of himself and any other person who acts as surety, or otherwise upon payment of the principal sum advanced and such interest as the court may consider reasonable.

That the discretion suggested should be exercisable by any judge of the high court or any judge of a county court.

That from any decision given under these powers by the judicial authority there should be no right of appeal by either party, except by leave of the court.

That no transaction between a judgment debtor and a judgment creditor by way of a renewal of the loan should be valid so long as the judgment remains unsatisfied.

Your committee are satisfied from the evidence that many borrowers are deterred from going into court by fear of the publicity which would thereby be given to their misfortunes, and that they will submit to almost any degree of oppression in order to conceal from those about them what their position really is. They, therefore, consider that to render the remedies proposed really

effective it is essential that wherever it may appear desirable the court should have power to hear any money-lending case in private.

Other recommendations are made, regarding bills of sale, registration of money-lenders, the keeping of exact accounts by money-lenders and, finally, regarding co-operative banks:

Co-operative Banks. Your committee have received important evidence as to the operation of

co-operative banks on the continent and in some parts of the united kingdom. It appears that the establishment of such banks has been of great use in abolishing or largely diminishing the trade of lending money at exorbitant rates of interest to the poorer classes. Your committee are impressed with the extreme usefulness of these institutions, and they are of opinion that they meet a real want, especially in agricultural districts. They do not, however, recommend any state intervention in connection with such institutions at the present time.

These are radical suggestions, threatening, as has been argued against the report, the "sacredness of contract," and investing in the judges a discretion "absolutely unfettered,"—a power implying a confidence in the equity of English courts which is encouraging, to say the least. They, however, are practical. The sacredness of a contract depends upon its justness. As for the excessive power conferred upon the judge, there is nothing unusual in that. If society can find a man, or men, whom it can trust, it is to-day only too glad to give them almost unlimited executive powers. The position taken by

the committee marks the line of practical development, and deserves adoption. If past theories do not quite agree with it, they will soon be adjusted to meet the new social demands.

Stephen H.
Gurteen.

We have to announce the death, since our last issue, of the Rev. Stephen H. Gurteen, to whom was largely due the foundation of the charity organization movement in this country. A sketch of his work, by the Hon. T. Guilford Smith, president of the charity organization society of Buffalo, will appear in the REVIEW for October.

Almshouse for
Aged
Couples.

The trustees of pauper institutions of Boston have appointed Miss Sarah G. Weeden as superintendent of their small almshouse, formerly the Charlestown almshouse. Hitherto this institution has been a general almshouse for both men and women, but after careful consideration the trustees have decided to make it an almshouse for women and aged couples. This is an effort to establish a closer classification than was heretofore possible, and is in many ways an interesting experiment, as it is the intention of the trustees to have the almshouse resemble, so far as possible, an old ladies' home. It is expected to accommodate from one hundred to one hundred and fifty pauper women, and the building, which is pleasant and comfortable, though old-fashioned, can readily be adapted to its present use. The provision for aged couples is not considered urgent, and would

probably be needed for occasional couples only, but the trustees are desirous of doing all they can in the right direction in classification of inmates of almshouses. The experience in England leads to the belief that apartments for aged couples in workhouses are rarely needed.

Rhode Island
Provisions
for the
Feeble-Minded.

We print in another place an extract from the report of the Rhode Island board of education regarding the care of the state for its feeble-minded dependents of school age. It is of interest not only historically but as showing the necessary gravitation of all intelligent efforts on behalf of this class of dependents toward their complete segregation as a class, under care adapted to their special needs and possibilities. Not only is it "unworthy of this age of civilization that they should be classed with the common pauper, and left to the scant treatment which must almost inevitably come to such," but, as shown in the August number of the REVIEW, such a course involves a positive danger to the community no less serious than that of leaving at large the insane.

The position of general agent of the New York association for improving the condition of the poor, has been accepted by Mr. Frank Tucker, who for the past nine years has been business manager of the *Jersey City News*. Previous to that Mr. Tucker was connected with the *New York Herald*, holding at one time the office of assistant city editor.

A TRAINING CLASS IN PHILANTHROPY.

BY PHILIP W. AYRES.

The training class in philanthropic work conducted by the New York charity organization society during six weeks of June and July has proven successful beyond the expectations of its friends. Originally planned for fifteen members, twenty-seven were accepted and twelve were reluctantly turned away. Of the twenty-seven members of the class, fourteen colleges and universities and eleven states of the union were represented. A little more than half of the class had previous experience in philanthropic work either as managers of charity organization societies, residents in settlements, directors of clubs, or trained nurses; three were professional teachers, and the remainder were directly from their academic work in colleges. All of these from the colleges had completed a four years' course, and five had taken at least one year of post-graduate work. The following list indicates the names, home addresses, and philanthropic or educational connection of the registered members:

Martin Birnbaum, New York, Columbia university.

Miss Mary Bowly, New York, charity organization society.

Lincoln E. Brown, Moscow, Pennsylvania; Hale house, Boston; Brooklyn bureau of charities.

Miss Kate Holladay Claghorn, New York; Bryn Mawr college,

Yale university, secretary of the collegiate alumnae.

J. B. Clary, New York, charity organization society.

Miss F. B. Collins, Syracuse, Cornell university.

Miss Katherine Conyngton, Madison, Wisconsin; Wellesley college, university of Wisconsin.

Miss Annie Damer, Buffalo; Bellevue training school for nurses.

Miss Frances G. Davenport, Boston; Radcliffe college, Greenpoint settlement, Brooklyn.

Miss Isabella Earle, Newark, New Jersey.

Miss Norma Garvin, Providence, Rhode Island, Brown university.

Miss Mary Griffith, Utica, New York, Vassar college.

Mrs. Lenora A. Hamlin, St. Paul, Minnesota; St. Paul associated charities, college settlement, New York city.

Miss Belle Krolick, Detroit, Michigan; university of Michigan.

Mrs. Rose Levere, New York.

Miss Sarah Brayton Marsh, New York; Smith college, college settlement.

Miss Adeline Moffat, Northampton, Massachusetts, superintendent of the home culture clubs.

Miss F. J. Parsons, Yonkers, New York, general secretary of the woman's institute.

Miss Cora Kemp Ragsdale, Franklin, Indiana, Franklin college.

Mrs. Mary Roberts Smith, professor in Leland Stanford, Jr., university, California.

Miss Katherine M. Smith, New York, charity organization society.

Miss Nellie M. Smith, New York, Vassar college.

Herbert S. Talbot, Columbus, Ohio, university of Ohio.

Miss Alice S. Taylor, Providence, Rhode Island; Smith college, general secretary of Providence society for organizing charity.

A. A. Tenny, Brooklyn, Columbia university.

E. T. Towne, Madison, Wisconsin, university of Wisconsin.

Philip B. Whepley, Lynn, Massachusetts, superintendent of boys' clubs.

There were present at the daily sessions many visitors, a few of whom came from other cities. Most of them represented the several charitable societies and settlements in New York city. The attendance fluctuated between twenty-five and sixty. All but two of the registered members continued to the close of the course. The addresses and visits to institutions as actually carried out were as follows, with ample opportunity for discussion at each exercise:

June 20. Brief addresses by Mr. Charles D. Kellogg, of the charity organization society, and Mr. Clarence Gordon, head resident at east side house. Visit to registration bureau.

June 21. The evils of investigation and relief, by Mrs. Charles R. Lowell. Addresses by Mr. Robert W. de Forest, president of the charity organization society, and Mr. Edward T. Devine, general secretary. Visit to the wayfarers' lodge of the charity organization society. Visit to Hartley house.

June 22. Meeting with Dr. William H. Tolman, of the association for improving the condition of the poor. Visit to workrooms for un-

skilled women of the charity organization society. Address by Miss Kate Bond. Visit to St. Bartholomew's parish house.

June 23. The united Hebrew charities. Address by Mr. Nathaniel S. Rosenau. Visit to the Hebrew educational alliance.

June 24. Address by Mr. William I. Nichols, general secretary of the Brooklyn bureau of charities. Visits to industrial agencies of the Brooklyn bureau of charities, and to the Riverside and Tower buildings.

June 25. Visit to the Baron de Hirsch trade schools. Meeting with the district agents of the charity organization society.

June 27. The New York children's aid society. Addresses by Mr. Moore Dupuy, superintendent of the industrial schools, and Mr. E. Trott, western agent. The woman's auxiliary of the New York city mission and tract society, an address by Mrs. Lucy S. Bainbridge. Visit to the truant school of the children's aid society.

June 28. Address by Mrs. M. Fullerton, of the association for improving the condition of the poor. History of the care of destitute children, an address by Mr. Homer Folks. Visits to the institute of mercy and to the nursery and child's hospital.

June 29. Institutional and placing-out methods in the care of children, an address by Mr. Homer Folks. Provision for babies and for mothers and babies, an address by Miss M. V. Clark. Visits to the home for the friendless and the foundling asylum.

June 30. Address by Mrs. Glendower Evans, of Boston, on the Lyman school for boys. Meeting at the college settlement, 95 Rivington street. Addresses by Miss Mary M. Kingsbury and Mr. James B. Reynolds.

July 1. An address by Mr. Arthur W. McDougall, general secretary of the Orange bureau of associated charities. Department of public charities, an address by Hon. J. W. Keller, president of the commissioners of charities. Visit to institutions on Blackwell's Island.

July 2. County poor-houses. Miss M. V. Clark.

July 4. Visit to university settlement fresh-air work at Atlantic Highlands.

July 5. Visits to the institutions for the feeble-minded and for foundlings on Randall's Island.

July 6. Visit to Manhattan state hospital for the insane, Ward's Island.

July 7. The New York state board of charities. Mr. Robert W. Hebbard, secretary. The state charities aid association. Mr. Homer Folks, secretary.

July 8. Address by Mr. F. B. Sanborn, of Concord, Massachusetts, The test of curability, especially among the insane.

July 11. Address on dispensaries, Dr. S. F. Hallock. Visits to Demilt dispensary and Presbyterian hospital.

July 12. Help among the Italians. Mr. Jacob A. Riis.

July 13. Address by colonel George E. Waring, Jr., the death rate, or the influence of the municipality upon the lives of the poor. Visit to the health department and to the Tombs prison.

July 14. Visit to New York catholic protectory.

July 15. Visits to the fresh air homes of the association for improving the condition of the poor and of the children's aid society.

July 16. Visits to Bellevue hospital and training school for nurses.

July 18. The city and suburban homes company. Dr. E. R. L. Gould.

Visits to improved tenements in New York and vicinity.

July 19. Sanitation in public institutions. Addresses by Dr. J. S. Billings, librarian of the New York public library, and by Dr. Henry S. Chapin, of the Post-Graduate hospital.

July 20. Visits to vacation schools and playgrounds and some of the new public school buildings.

July 21. An address by Mr. Alfred T. White, on the abolition of outdoor relief in Brooklyn.

July 22. Visits to the fire and police stations of Sixty-seventh street. An address by Mr. David Willard, on the boys in the Tombs prison.

July 25. Visits to police courts. Address by Mrs. J. H. Johnston, president of the little mothers' aid society.

July 26. Visit to Sing Sing prison. Address by colonel O. V. Sage, warden.

July 27. Address by Mrs. Ellen C. Johnson, superintendent of the woman's prison, Sherbourne, Massachusetts.

July 28. The study of statistics, an address by professor Richmond Mayo-Smith, of Columbia university.

July 29. Address by Dr. Samuel McCune Lindsay, of the university of Pennsylvania, on the difficulties and advantages of unity in philanthropic work.

Each member of the class was required to give two weeks of actual service in the district offices of the charity organization society. This was chiefly in the afternoons. Some of the class gave four weeks of service, continuing as volunteer workers for several weeks after the close of the course. Each member was required to prepare and present to the

class one major and one minor report, or study at first hand on subjects connected with philanthropic work in New York. Each had the opportunity, though few found time to pursue it, to give personal care during the six weeks to one or two families in need. The list of major reports, which became a more valuable collection of useful information than was anticipated for it, is here given:

The abuse of medical charities.
The social aspect of New York police courts.

Trained nursing in New York.

Homes for working women.

Lodging-houses for men.

The treatment of delinquent children in New York.

The kindergarten training classes in New York.

Social settlements.

An analysis of foreign populations in New York.

The poor among the Bohemian population of New York.

The arrival and disposition of immigrants.

The Hungarian colony in New York.

The Italians in New York.

The colored population of New York.

A study of the street cleaning department in New York.

A study of food values.

A comparison of registration in the charity organization society of New York and the Brooklyn bureau of charities.

Public school sittings in New York.

Play grounds for children.

Relief employment bureaus and industrial agencies.

Newspaper charities.

The savings of the poor.

Studies in the united Hebrew charities.

The financial management of charitable institutions in New York.

Social relationships in small towns.

The practical working of day nurseries and crèches.

Improved tenements in the greater New York.

Several of these reports have been printed in the *Tribune*. Miss Claghorn's analysis of populations in New York will appear in the *Annals of the American Academy*; two of the papers will be given in courses of university lectures. The paper of Mrs. Mary Roberts Smith on police courts, has been requested by colonel Waring for presentation before the City club.

The minor reports consisted of statements relative to the management of particular institutions, or phases of charitable work which the class could not visit as a whole. One profitable feature of these was the comparison of methods in the conduct of jails and almshouses in the several states, each member having been asked to visit the jail and almshouse in his or her locality before coming to New York.

A prominent feature of the course, growing out of the visits and excursions to institutions, was the opportunity for discussion between members of the class; this was strengthened by the kindly hospitality shown everywhere, and particularly by Mrs. Lowell, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. F. Round, the officers of the protectory, of the institute of mercy, of the association for improving the condition of the poor, and the residents in

charge at the college settlement and at the university settlement fresh-air home at Atlantic Highlands.

It is, of course, too soon to see the full results of this experimental training class. All of the members express their greater appreciation of the subject of philanthropy in its bearing upon social welfare. They have a clearer view of the value of work properly done and the harm of work improperly done. There is a new sense of social responsibility which is valuable in itself and will doubtless bear good fruit. Five of the class not already at work have been assigned to positions in charitable work. Four of these are students who come from the universities, three of them having taken post-graduate work. To get this type of person into the charitable positions is a good thing, if they are willing to begin at the bottom at small wages and work up. Three or four members of the class discovered that they were not fitted for paid places in charitable work, or not ready for them, and determined to take up other or volunteer work for the present. This also is an advantage.

Those who have watched the training class most closely are not inclined to the view that this course or a much longer one would fit its members to take leading positions, or even subordinate positions requiring technical skill in the field of charities. As it takes experience to run a newspaper and no school of journalism can make a journalist, so for the person who would care adequately for the poor,

for prisoners, for the sick or the insane, practice combined with capacity is necessary. The bearing of this upon the scheme for a general school of philanthropy discussed in the May number of the *REVIEW* is very important. How can specialists be started in their careers is the question to be solved. Will a general school fit persons to become good prison guards and ultimately prison wardens, or caretakers of the insane, or efficient residents in settlements? Is not the chief need a series of working scholarships rather than a school with courses? The students could be brought together at specified times in the year for instruction, perhaps with a course of a few weeks or months at the start, to sift out any who would find themselves ill adapted to it, at which time those already at work could join for the purpose of discussion and further acquisition; but the main work would be in spending weeks and months in actual work, first perhaps in the charity organization society of Boston or New York or Baltimore, becoming acquainted with the charitable workers, and with the people in distress, in their home surroundings, then specializing upon almshouse work or prison work, or registration, as the inclination of one's personality might lead—this in the hands of a competent director would be a means of really training specialists in philanthropic work. The scholarships should be generous in order to attract the strongest and best trained minds and permit them to remain long enough at practice to become skillful.

Who can estimate the influence of such workers upon their respective communities in leading philanthropic men and women into right lines of work, and preventing the chaos and sorrowful destruction of wrongly

directed work among the poor and the afflicted? Where is the man or group of men who will give the necessary endowment for such a series of scholarships in philanthropic work?

CHICAGO VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION.

BY HARRIET FULMER.

The question of relieving the sick poor of any community is acknowledged by all philanthropic workers to be a most vital problem. Realizing this, some seven years since a number of charitably inclined women organized what is now known as the Chicago visiting nurse association—a charity which, because of the broadness of its operations and the scope of its work, occupies a representative place in the nursing and philanthropic world to-day. In describing this association, it is my desire to furnish only such facts as will be of assistance to others contemplating establishing like associations. The executive part of the organization is conducted by a board of directors, thirty in number. The purpose of the organization is set forth in its articles of incorporation, as follows: "For the benefit and assistance of those otherwise unable to secure skilled attendance in time of illness; to promote cleanliness, and to teach the proper care of the sick." In the by-laws we find the following: "Any person may become a member of the association upon payment of an annual fee of \$5." The treasury

is supplied by the voluntary contributions of the public and by associate fees; the latter last year amounting to nearly \$2,000. The nursing is done entirely by hospital trained nurses, graduates of the representative training schools of the country. At present the staff numbers twelve nurses: eleven active workers, and one superintending nurse. These nurses are taken on the staff for a period of two months' probation, receiving \$45 per month. If accepted, they receive \$50 per month for two years, and \$60 per month for those giving longer service. The nurse chosen for this work must have a combination of qualities not necessary in any other branch of nursing. Tact and judgment in dealing with the poor is never more in demand than in this work; for we go not only to alleviate physical suffering, but to preach and teach that cleanliness and right observance of sanitary laws means a return to health of the sick and a future safeguard to the well. The field is compared to a large outdoor hospital, the nurses last year giving care to nearly four thousand

people, embracing all nationalities, and every known disease. The total number of visits made were 30,000. There were 195 cases of consumption alone, being many times double the number cared for by an ordinary hospital. The nurse's mission of health officer in these cases is of untold value, and the instruction given as to ventilation, isolation, and disinfection is acknowledged by the board of health to have done much toward decreasing the spread of this dread disease in Chicago.

Beside her active labors in fevers, surgical cases, etc., her example and instruction to the well members of the household has the best effect, for along every line does she teach that "cleanliness is next to godliness"—that bathing, care of children, and preparation of diet are among the essentials of their daily lives. In caring for the sick poor, much work comes to us not directly connected with the nursing, though forming a large part of our labors and expenditures. Patients are sent to the country for change of air; certain cases sent to hospitals; all relief and aid societies utilized; contagious cases reported to board of health; immediate relief given in the way of sick-room necessities (for this immediate relief the nurse is allowed \$5 per month extra).

The city is divided into ten districts—the nurse in charge of the district having her headquarters at some convenient drug store in the locality. Here each day she reports at 9 A. M. and 1.30 P. M., to receive new calls, see people who come to

inquire for her services, and replenish the emergency satchel, which she carries with her on her rounds. This emergency satchel contains all necessary articles she may need during the day, clinical thermometer, hypodermic syringe, soap, towels, surgical dressings, sterilized pads for maternity cases, and, many times, bedding and night gowns, which are loaned to those who can not provide these things for themselves.

The limited time given to one patient is forty-five minutes, but frequently it is necessary to remain longer. The nurses in the smaller and more congested districts make often as many as twenty-five calls a day. The hours of duty are from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M., though much of the time additional service is required.

By special request of a number of prominent doctors, the association has added to the staff a Bohemian nurse, who will work entirely among the patients of that nationality. We have also a Norwegian nurse, whose cases are confined closely to this class.

Last year the nurses sent 552 free doctors, showing the ready response of the medical profession to the demands of the deserving poor. We find few difficulties to be met with, for there are very few charitable organizations where the recipient has so little opportunity of deceiving, for the nurse comes and goes at all hours of the day, and is looked upon as confidential friend and adviser.

In March of this year the people of Columbus, Ohio, determined upon

doing something for their sick poor. We sent two of our nurses there to assist in organizing the work, the association being modeled as closely as possible after the Chicago society. It has proven a most satisfactory and successful venture, having taken care of some 200 patients within the five months. The success of the work in Columbus has induced many other western cities to contemplate the future organization of a society.

The receipts of our association for 1897 were \$17,121.90, and the disbursements \$13,400.60. The largest items of expense are the nurses' salaries and carfare. We now have one endowed nurse; the sum required for this being \$15,000, and left by the will of the late Mrs.

Stickney. The nurse will be known as "the Elizabeth Stickney memorial nurse." During the past few years we have found many deserving cases among a certain class who were not willing to accept our services free, and to these we now go for any voluntary sum they may choose to give, varying from five to twenty-five cents a visit. This money, of course, is used in the charity work of the association.

It would seem to those interested that no charity could so commend itself to the public as the one founded on the broad principles of this association, giving, as it does, bodily relief in illness, without regard to nationality or religion, the only requisite being that the applicant be poor and ill.

JOHN CHRISTOPHER DRUMGOOLE.

FOUNDER OF THE MISSION OF THE IMMACULATE VIRGIN FOR HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

BY JAMES E. DOUGHERTY.

Any sketch of Father Drumgoole in his relations with the work that has made him celebrated as a philanthropist—the care of homeless and destitute children—must, to be accurate, picture him in close union with his Maker—the love for whom prompted him to the task and made all labor light. He loved the child—especially the neglected child—because he saw in him the image of his Savior. This is the keynote to his character, and it must be recognized in tracing his connection with works of charity.

He was born near the town of Granard, county Longford, Ireland, on August 15, 1816, and was sent for in 1824, when a child of eight years, by his widowed mother, who was already in the United States. They settled in old Saint Patrick's parish, New York city. His first worldly care, when able, was to support his aged mother, which he did at the shoemaking trade. He was a regular and devout daily attendant at church, and could be seen at the early morning service in old Saint Patrick's church on Mott street, with his candle—as was then the custom—to light the pages of his prayer book and enable him to read.

As Sunday school teacher he would seek the scholars and attract

them to the class by kind words and deeds; this course often bringing him in contact with the negligent parents, whom he also sought to win over to a sense of their duty.

Rev. Wm. Starrs, afterwards vicar-general, while officiating at Saint Patrick's, early recognized his merit, and when in 1844 he was appointed pastor of Saint Mary's church in Grand street, New York, he brought Mr. Drumgoole with him as sexton for the church. The latter acquired a partnership in a small book store on Grand street, opposite the church, about the year 1850, and retained it for a few years, to enable him to provide a fund to support his aged mother, and thus leave him free to carry out the wish nearest his heart: to become a priest. He could not see his way clearly to this higher calling until 1863, when he left Saint Mary's to study for the priesthood. He acquired the requisite preliminary education at Saint Francis Xavier college, New York, and at Saint John's college, Fordham; and entered the seminary of our Lady of Angels, Suspension Bridge, New York, in the year 1865, where he was ordained a priest for the diocese of New York, by Bishop Ryan of Buffalo, on May 24, 1869—being then in his 53d year.

He was assigned to duty at Saint

Mary's, where, as a layman, he had spent nineteen years of his life, during which he had frequently given evidence of how dear to him were the souls of the stray sheep and of the neglected ones.

In the period of his sextonship—on the occasion of a mission—he would go into the slums of the parish or among the longshoremen at the docks, “round up” and bring to the services all the hard cases, young and old, he could find. They would yield to him and heed him, because he was known to be the “friend in need” of the poor and unfortunate to the extent of his material means. His heart and soul continually reached out for the neglected ones of the world. After his ordination he was seriously planning how to devote his life to the unfortunate negro, whose condition just then, with the civil war raging, was deplorable in many places. But Providence had in reserve another field of labor for him.

The Saint Vincent de Paul society had opened a lodging house for boys in 1870 at No. 53 Warren street, New York, but soon found that the class to be dealt with—the street arabs and the homeless and destitute children—required something more than food, raiment, and lodging. The members of the society had their own families to care for, and while they gave freely of their spare time and means to the work, and employed a very good man to superintend, they made but little progress. The work languished, until in the fall of 1871 the number

of inmates had dropped to fifteen. Father Drumgoole became acquainted with this condition of affairs, and at once the inspiration came to him that here was his mission defined, and his work cut out for him. Some one was needed whom the boys, with their quick perception, would realize loved them as a parent and who would devote his life to their care as does the parent to his child. He at once volunteered for the work. He was then in his fifty-fifth year. Archbishop McCloskey accepted his offer and appointed him as city missionary. In order to insure him the means of subsistence he proposed to attach him as an assistant to the cathedral, but Father Drumgoole modestly refused, saying when asked how he could live: “I can live as the boys live, and if God wishes the work to succeed, He will surely provide the means.” And so He did.

The society of Saint Vincent de Paul continued to help the work for some time—financially and by personal service; but in February, 1872, Father Drumgoole assumed sole charge. The boys had soon found that they had in him a father who loved them, and they acted as missionaries to bring in recruits, so that at the end of 1873 he had to hire the three upper lofts of 55 Warren street in addition to the original No. 53. By this time a knowledge of his work had begun to spread and win support and sympathy from generous philanthropists. It was in this year that the earl of

Rosebery, later prime minister of England, visited the lodging-house incognito, and was so impressed with Father Drumgoole and his surroundings, that he came officially the following week, announced who he was, and was ever afterwards his friend, often when in New York spending hours with him in his room in Warren street. This room of Father Drumgoole's was about eight by twelve feet in floor area; had no carpet; was furnished with a single iron bedstead; a small desk, which served also as a table for his frugal meals, and was surmounted by a well worn crucifix; one chair and a few books; while a few plain pictures hung on the walls. Behind the door, in the corner, was an old "cuckoo" clock that had belonged to his mother. A visitor was given the single chair to sit on, while Father "John," as his boys called him, sat on the side of the bed. Sometimes in the early days, when discussing ways and means, the sitting was reversed. "Father John" took the chair and the others the bedside. Among the happy and treasured recollections of the writer are the sessions in that plain room, sitting on the iron bedstead in Warren street.

The most skeptical could not fail to be impressed by the simple and earnest faith of Father Drumgoole and his trust in prayer. He prayed as if he were face to face with God, or with the saints when he invoked their intercession. His prayers at times seemed like confidential chats, in which, in plain, simple language, he poured out his wants, or rather

the wants of his mission; for his personal wants were few and easily supplied.

But all this time he was planning the greater development of his work, and on November 30, 1875, a bazaar and concert was held that brought him in nearly \$15,000. As a ticket cost twenty-five cents, it will be seen that by this means nearly 60,000 people got a knowledge of his work. This was the turning point in the financial history of the work; for from the sum thus realized Saint Joseph's union was started, and enlisted an army in the cause of homeless and destitute children, that has never failed the mission of the Immaculate Virgin, then founded, from that day to this.

In 1879 he bought an old church property at the corner of Great Jones street and Lafayette place, and in December, 1881, opened the present magnificent structure that he erected on the site.

In 1882 the first purchase of the Staten island, or Mount Loretto, property, as he called it, was made; and in 1883 the new buildings erected there were occupied.

While all this was going on, his generous and loving heart was the receptacle for tales of woe from every quarter. Saint Joseph's union brought him into communication with the sorrow stricken from all parts of the world, and enabled him to pour balm into their wounded hearts. Never, until the day of judgment, will be revealed the consolation he afforded. No one who came in contact with Father Drum-

goole could fail to be impressed by his earnestness—his faith in God and his love for Him. His influence over the boys under his care was very great—nor is that to be wondered at; for these little waifs that came to him were keen observers and were not slow to find that he loved them and wanted to be indeed a father to them. He was accessible to all of them, and would listen attentively to the story of their wants, or to their complaints, and in the early days in Warren street, before he had the work systematized or the religious to help him, no service was too menial for him to perform for the children. He always recognized the work he did for them as done to Christ, and always attributed the great success which later on attended his efforts to God whom he served.

But God's ways are not our ways. When, to the unreflecting, Father Drumgoole was a greater necessity than ever to his work, he was cut off and called to his reward. On the twenty-eighth of March, 1888, after a short illness of pneumonia, fortified by the sacraments of his church, calmly and resignedly he died in the city house on Lafayette place.

In a production of this kind no attempt is made to give anything but a superficial sketch of his work. He had built and thoroughly equipped the city house on Lafayette place and also the buildings at Mount Loretto, capable of adequately caring for the 1,600 inmates they contained at his death. He

had secured the sisters of Saint Francis from Buffalo to minister unto and educate his beloved little ones. Some idea of the magnitude of the work he accomplished can be acquired when we find that the outlay for land, buildings, and equipment of the whole was over \$1,000,000; and let it be noted that he left not one cent of debt after him. He accomplished all this without any wonderful talent, and without being an educated man, as the term is generally understood; thus giving evidence to those of his faith, that God was the architect of his work. He left to every one of us who may be privileged to aid in no matter how small a way in this work of caring for homeless and destitute children, an incentive in his life. It shows us if we study it, that while intellect, culture, and education, if properly used, will aid the work and help us to do it intelligently, the foundation upon which all must rest is the love of our fellow creature for God's sake.

He once attended by request a session of the American social science association, held at Saratoga in the early part of September, 1877. He went as a spectator, but was called upon unexpectedly to address them. Listen to him, for I think I can not better close this imperfect sketch of this remarkable man than by giving a photograph, as it were, of his mind, in his own earnest, eloquent words, as he extemporaneously addressed that body:

"In looking after the interests of

the child it is necessary to cultivate the heart. You must eradicate the vices of youth if you wish that they should grow up useful members of society. My idea in training children is to *cultivate the heart* and infuse into the mind of the child a knowledge of the law of God, and his duty to his country, to his neighbor, and to himself. In training the child I take for my model the poor, honest, industrious, hard-working, and virtuous man. Help the child as his father would help him until he is able to do for himself. Teach him a spirit of honesty, industry, and self-reliance. The heart, remember, is the battle-field of the soul. It is there that salvation must be won or lost. It is there that the struggle between vice and virtue takes place. It is there that the foundation of a good or bad life begins, and we may spend millions of dollars to better the condition of the child, but if the heart is not cultivated and brought under the influence of religion, all is lost. The vices of the youth will predominate in manhood, and he may

easily fall a prey to the prevailing spirit of insubordination, and to all the terrible isms of the day that everywhere threaten the peace of society. If you want good and valiant soldiers, cultivate the heart; if you want honest voters, politicians, and legislators, who will faithfully perform their duties and be governed in all their actions more by the justice of God and the welfare of their country than temporal gain, then I say cultivate the heart of the child.

"From my seven years' experience among children, I find that with proper care boys can all be reclaimed. I have had boys who were some of the worst characters in New York, who, after a few months' training, were reclaimed, and are now holding situations of trust—being highly respected by their employers for honesty and industry."

I need say no more. Father Drumgoole has spoken; and the alpha and omega of his method—which his life proves to us came from God—was love of the child founded on love of God.

CURABILITY OF THE INSANE.

BY F. B. SANBORN.

[The following article is the substance of a paper read before the training class of the New York charity organization society. It will be of special interest, not only because of expert treatment of the subject, but because of its direct connection with the recent discussion in the REVIEW of after-care of the insane. It is published by permission of the charity organization society and the author.—THE EDITORS.]

The charm dissolves apace;
And as the morning steals upon the night,
Melting the darkness, so their rising senses
Begin to chase the ignorant fumes that mantle
Their clearer reason.—*Shakespeare.*

Our difficulty in testing recoveries among the insane is traced back to an earlier one,—the practical impossibility of defining what insanity really is,—that is, of giving one definition that will meet all cases. Dr. Earle, one of the wisest experts in insanity that our country has seen, was once testifying in a case not far from here, and the opposing counsel, wishing to disparage his evidence, said, "Dr. Earle, you have had long experience in such matters; will you not define to this jury what insanity is?" "With great pleasure," was the reply, "if the learned counsel will first explain to them what sanity is." Whatever sanity may be, the condition of which we speak is its negative, or absence, or reverse; for insanity may be of any of the three. In a certain sense no person is perfectly sane, just as no person is in perfect health; the saying, "a sound mind in a sound body" no

more describes an actual human condition than the geometrical terms "circle," "sphere," etc., apply to any actual surface or solid. Perfect sphericity exists only in the mind; no combination of imperfect atoms attains to that perfection. Not only can we never square the circle but we can never circumscribe it. Even so, perfect sanity can never be found; the very standard by which it is measured is itself continually changing as civilization advances. The savage is to us a monster,—in many respects a lunatic; the semi-civilized man appears to the highly developed mind almost an idiot; the very summits of culture often seem to the practical man grotesque or extravagant. What would be insanity in you or me might appear the most natural act to the undeveloped mind of the barbarian. This is one reason why we hear of so little insanity among the lower races of men; it is

essentially a disease of developing civilization.

Insanity being this variant and rather indefinable condition, when its exact nature is considered, yet becomes in practice manifest enough, if the good of the community is to be considered, without prying too deeply into changing states of the mind, or physical causes, obvious or unapparent. A certain degree of mental obliquity or alienation makes the person in question a bad neighbor, a spendthrift householder, a source of misery, anxiety or shame to his family; he must therefore be taken in charge by the public authorities, and an effort must be made to cure his malady, for such the progress of civilization has determined that to be which was once esteemed demoniac possession, or the eccentricities of wilful nature. And thus we have, as a practical question, the tests of curability presented for consideration. What shall they be? Various answers have been given, and the most strangely differing means have been used to bring about recovery. Of course, we have gradually learned that there is no specific for insanity; neither the bones of St. Dymphna at Gheel, nor the prayers and exorcisms of the English parson, nor the barbarities of the dark cell, the cold pool, the douche or the whirling chair will always or often promote recovery. Plainly, then, the tests of curability must differ in different cases, and can be wisely applied only with regard to the diversities of civilization, and in proportion to the insight

and experience of the physician or the layman, the nurse or the relative who may be in charge of each case of insanity. Usually, recovery is preceded by a period of returning reason, termed "convalescence," from its analogy with the same stage of bodily disease; and, indeed, such recovery from physical ailment of some sort is a condition precedent to the cure of the insane. But this term, "convalescence," is very loosely used regarding them—its very vagueness of application certifying to the inherent difficulties of the subject-matter. To illustrate what I mean, a sentence in *THE CHARITIES REVIEW* for July will serve, as thus: "An individual who is convalescent from insanity has a balanced mind; he is not technically insane. . . . Superintendents are obliged by every law in every state of the union, or every civilized country, to discharge their insane before convalescence is complete, because the patient has recovered his mental balance."

Now, "convalescent," in all the dictionaries, means "approaching recovery;" and in mental disease it can not have a different meaning. But if "mental balance" has been gained, recovery from mental disease has been reached, and the patient is no longer convalescent, but well. Physical disease may remain, and this may render it expedient not to discharge the patient; but I know of no law which obliges any superintendent to discharge any insane patient before convalescence is complete, if he is really convalescing. Had there been such a law in Massa-

chusetts, I could not have failed to find it out in the twenty-odd years during which I was administering the laws relating to insanity. The difficulty with the writer of the sentence quoted seems to be that he is using terms of which he does not recognize the accepted meaning. "By posterity," said Sir Boyle Roche in the Irish parliament, "I do not mean our immediate ancestors, but those who directly succeeded them."

Certain forms of insanity are periodical and self-limited, the most familiar instance being the temporary mania of intoxication. Convalescence in such cases really begins when the exciting cause ceases to act. But in other forms of the malady, one stage follows another with a kind of regularity as to the successive phases, though without uniformity in the time over which each may extend. Thus dementia, the terminal form towards which both mania and melancholia tend, may come on rapidly (in a few months, for example), or it may be delayed for years. It may then be arrested for long periods; in such cases we may have what I have been wont to call "virtual recovery;" both where actual curability cannot be affirmed, and in many other cases which seem distinctly incurable. In persons of a low mental type—ignorant foreigners, for example, or the negroes of the south—this dementia does not greatly differ from the normal condition; they have always been accustomed to direction from others, and now self-direction only becomes a little more difficult.

Cases of this class introduce a

point which is becoming more important than any precise test of curability, were such attainable; since the number of the demented insane, in any old community at a given time, is usually much larger than that of the more active forms of insanity, and far exceeds the number of the possibly curable. For example, in a great asylum like that at Willard, on Seneca lake, which I have often visited, you would not find more than fifty of its 2,000 patients who were curable at the time of your visit; but you would probably find 1,200 demented cases. The proportion of the apparently curable in our best hospitals, as managed at present, does not exceed one in six, and often is less than one in ten. But those susceptible of what I called "virtual recovery" are commonly more numerous, and often are five to one of the strictly curable, especially in the largest hospitals for the insane—which have gradually become asylums rather than hospitals.

And here let me introduce the highest statistical authority concerning the "curability of insanity," the book of that title published in 1886 by my friend, the late Dr. Pliny Earle, of Northampton. It was completed in 1886, when its author was seventy-six years old; but most of its contents had appeared in print before, and the whole was the fruit of an experience of almost half a century in the study and practical treatment of insanity. Its final publication entirely destroyed a theoretical fabric of error and imposture concerning the curability of insane

persons which for sixty years had been slowly building up in America and Europe. The main pillar of this fabric was a specious hypothesis never supported by facts, in the strength of which sumptuous hospital-palaces had been erected and large sums of public money, increased by private gift and bequest, had been expended, and in some degree wasted. The hypothesis was that all insanity is easily and rapidly curable if only taken early and treated in a hospital; thus saving, it was alleged, to the community the sums otherwise requisite to maintain the uncured patients in asylums.

It was a pleasing and convenient theory; it provided many medical men with palatial homes and exalted reputations, which some of them deserved and most of them enjoyed; but, as it proved, the facts were all against it. This Dr. Earle and others had known; and Dr. Thurnam, of the York retreat in England, had stated the truth years before. But no man had demonstrated it on a large scale, extending research over many lands and many thousand cases, and so the plausible and comfortable fallacy continued to hold sway during the grotesque inadequacy of the hospital statistics, on the revision of which the demonstration must depend.

Dr. Earle had been for decades laboring at this revision; the farther he advanced, the more clearly he saw what the final inference must be, and he gave his colleagues credit for the same penetration and single-ness of purpose which he had. For

the time he found himself mistaken and disappointed; his figures were unassailable, but their meaning was so unpleasing to professional pride of opinion, and so fatal to the system of error long and carefully built up, that it is no wonder they were slowly accepted, even where they were fully understood. For in the modest inquiry which the Northampton superintendent undertook to make, he soon came upon blunders that so touched his sense of the humorous, that he could not refrain from exposing them mirthfully, thus adding a barb to the dart he threw with mild efficiency. His earliest victim was that gay and captious Briton, captain Basil Hall, who traveled in America seventy years ago, and gave Wordsworth and others such a sad picture of our American defects. Hall had visited the Hartford retreat, October, 1827, and there had found something to praise. He said in his second volume:

"Dr. Todd, the eminent and kind physician of the retreat, showed us over every part of this noble establishment—a model, I venture to say, from which any country might take instruction. During the last year there have been admitted here twenty-three recent cases, of which twenty-one recovered, equivalent to 91.3 per cent. The whole number of recent cases during the year was twenty-eight, of which twenty-five have recovered, equal to 89.2 per cent."

"Thus recognized and endorsed," said Dr. Earle, "the report of the Hartford visiting physicians, other-

wise comparatively unknown, was sent by the newspapers through the length and breadth of the land, and the people received their first impression that insanity is largely curable. By a few strokes of his magic pen captain Hall did what, were it not for him, would have required the labor of years." He then quoted the curious boast of Dr. Galt, of the Williamsburg asylum in Virginia, made in 1842, who said he had cured 100 per cent of his recent cases, leading this sanguine statistician, reasoning from thirteen cases, "to believe there is no insane institution, either in Europe or America, in which such success is met with as in our own." Dr. Earle slyly added:

"Dr. Galt had produced the maximum of percentage figures, including deaths; nay, had he not (under a recognized principle) mathematically demonstrated the curability of all the insane? What said Dr. Luther Bell, of the McLean asylum, in his report for 1840? 'Our records justify the declaration that all cases certainly recent—that is, whose origin does not, either directly or obscurely, run back more than a year,—recover under a fair trial. This is the general law; the occasional instances to the contrary are the exception.' The spring-tide of mathematical curability had now attained its highest point, and Dr. Galt was upon the crest of its topmost wave, with Dr. Bell beside him in opinionative curability."

Warnings against this self-deception of the men whom the public trusted were not wanting. Dr. Ray,

then at the head of the Maine hospital in Augusta, said in 1842: "Nothing can be made more deceptive than statistics, and I have yet to learn that those of insanity form any exception." His successor, Dr. Bates, in his report for 1850, exposed the juggle with figures at which Dr. Ray hinted:

"I am sure figures are sometimes made the instruments of deception. Suppose, at the end of each year, instead of reporting all cases as recent which were admitted within one year of the attack, I should, for the purpose of appearing to cure ninety per cent of recent cases discharged, report only such as recent as had not become old by remaining with us, I might impose the belief on the uninitiated that ninety per cent of recent cases could be cured. Yet every man acquainted with the subject knows that no instance can be shown in which ninety out of 100 cases, admitted in succession, no matter how recent, were ever cured."

Notwithstanding these warnings, Dr. Earle himself, naturally hopeful, and yielding to the common drift of opinion in his youth, had said, in his first New York report (for 1844):

"Of cases in which there is no eccentricity or constitutional weakness of intellect, and when the proper remedial measures are adopted in the early stages of the disorder, no less than eighty in every 100 are cured. There are but few diseases from which so large a percentage of the persons attacked are restored."

Cautious as these exceptions were, the percentage was far too high, and

Dr. Earle apologized for his error in his masterly volume, saying in 1876:

"Thirty-two years ago Dr. Earle was younger than now, and had not the benefit of so extensive an experience. His practical knowledge of the treatment of insanity, in 1844-45, had been derived from a number of cases considerably less than were under his care at one time in 1876 (494). He has had time and opportunity and reason to modify many of his opinions, and among those modified is that of the curability of insanity. Doubtless there are others of the writers he has quoted who would now seek protection, and who deserve it, under a similar plea."

It seems that Dr. Bell, one of the most able and outspoken of the deluded and deluding alienists of the decade from 1840 to 1850, did reach a conclusion more extreme in regard to incurability than Dr. Earle, who quotes him as saying in 1857, "I have come to the conclusion that when once a man becomes insane, he is about used up for this world." And even Dr. Ray, who attacked Dr. Earle's conclusions in rather too partisan a spirit, as late as 1879, took occasion to say then:

"It may well be doubted whether the terms 'recovered,' 'improved,' 'much improved,' have been of any use not more than balanced by their inevitable tendency to mislead the reader respecting the curability of insanity. The public, as often happens, thought that the information sought for was to be

found in a parade of vague general expressions."

The peculiar merit of Dr. Earle's whole career as an alienist was to destroy the value and check the parade of "vague general expressions" and impressions.

What, then, was the conclusion drawn by Dr. Earle from his long, patient and impartial investigation of the facts of curability—both those gathered from statistics covering fifty years and more than 160,000 insane persons, and those involved in the cases, numbering six or seven thousand, which had come under Dr. Earle's personal observation in the four hospitals and asylums with which he was officially connected between 1840 and 1886? Why, this: that general and varied insanity, instead of being the most curable, is among the least permanently curable of human maladies, and that the obstacles to its cure are not likely to be surmounted easily. He says:

"It is utterly impossible to subject the insane to curative treatment at as early a stage of their disorder as are persons seized with fever or dysentery. In more than ten per cent, and in my opinion more than twenty per cent, the approach of the malady is so slow and insidious that the insanity is not recognized, often not suspected, till it has passed the period in which it might be amenable to treatment. Hence, practically, it is chronic and incurable from the beginning. The actual recoveries of persons in our hospitals can not be more than about thirty in the hundred, and the reported recoveries of

all cases received has been constantly diminishing during a period of from twenty to fifty years."

But how did the old and now thoroughly disproved theory, that seventy, eighty, or even ninety-five insane persons in a hundred are curable, gain a foothold? By a combination of ignorance and false inference which now seems very childish.

It was not observed, probably not known, that different phases of insanity have their own law of progression, and while some advance toward recovery almost without help from the physician, others as surely advance towards death or dementia, the latter being often but the deferred alternative of death. Taking account only of the favorable cases, and omitting to notice their tendency to relapse, the view was taken which allowed Dr. Galt, of Virginia, to say that he had cured 100 per cent of his recent cases, and led Dr. Luther Bell into the astonishing fallacy that all recent cases were curable. General paralysis was then (before 1850) practically unknown in this country, and the degenerative types of insanity had been but little studied; indeed, the physical causes of mental alienation were but casually observed, and the localization of functions in the brain (except in the misleading form of phrenology, which had been introduced in Boston by Spurzheim, an eminent anatomist, in 1832, and had captivated many physicians) was almost as unknown as the germ theory of disease and its resulting bacteria.

Yet the absence of curability in so many cases does not exclude what I have spoken of as "virtual recovery" in thousands of instances of mild dementia, or permanently impaired mental vigor. This does not imply restoration of the patient to full self-control and self-direction; but it does permit a release from the depressing routine and the artificial restraints of an asylum. For, with all the beneficent usefulness of asylums they can not escape the general law governing human affairs—they must and do have the defects of their good qualities. They accumulate morbid material to an extent which often neutralizes their sanative powers; just as a surgical or general hospital may become saturated with the very poisons which its wholesome service has eliminated from its individual patients. Such mental poisons, corresponding to septicæmia and hospital gangrene, are stagnation, idleness, suspicion, fear; and these are most active, in their languid way, where the accumulation of the chronic insane is largest. It is desirable, then, to remove from their infection such of the incurable insane as can be properly placed elsewhere; and virtual recovery, suitably dealt with in a good state system, will remove many of the technically incurable to less hurtful surroundings, and inspire them with a considerable degree of self-control. I say this not upon mere theory, but because I had pass under my hands, when a state official of Massachusetts, some hundreds of these cases, among the thousands of

whom I had the inspection, and to some extent the disposal.

For example, Mrs. X., who had been insane for at least ten years, and at first violently so, with many delusions, had passed into the condition of quiet and almost imperceptible dementia; few but experts would notice that she was insane, yet she was technically incurable. When the Massachusetts system of family care, based upon the Scotch system which has succeeded so well for thirty-five years, was introduced by me in 1885, I placed this lady in a good family, where her conduct was so irreproachable that her relatives took her home and have had her for a family inmate now this dozen years,—to her great comfort and theirs. It is a case of "virtual recovery," yet few experts would declare her free from insanity. Numerous instances of domestics who have retained insanity enough to be noticeable even to a casual observer were dealt with by me in a similar manner, and have afterwards continued to be self-supporting in families where they are valued and treated with the kind consideration which all domestics need, but which all do not receive. I estimate that among the twenty per cent of the ordinary insane who can thus be placed in families, at least six per cent (of the whole number) will be found among the "virtually recovered," and can be restored to society in varying degrees of communication with the sane,—instead of being confined in asylums and condemned to the society of persons mainly disagree-

able to them, and often exercising a hurtful influence. This is a consideration worthy of the attention of all who are officially or from personal interest connected with the chronic insane. It also has a distinct bearing on the recovery of the curable.

Having mentioned the difficulty of defining insanity, it is only fair that I should attempt a definition of my own. The Century dictionary favors us with this rather long one: "It is a seriously impaired condition of the mental functions, involving the intellect, emotions or will, exclusive of temporary states produced by and accompanying acute intoxication or acute febrile diseases. From the denotation of the word are also usually excluded mental defects resulting from arrested development, idiocy, and such conditions as simple trance, ecstasy and catalepsy, and often senile dementia. No classification is universally accepted."

Let us then propose a classification more simple, if more metaphysical, which, if not accepted, may yet serve for illustration: Insanity, in one of its commonest aspects, is a sequestration of the individual from the co-operative life of society.

If this be so, our effort should be for the restoration of the insane to a more natural relation, not to swamp his individual powers in a morass of abnormal minds, whose co-operation is practically impossible. Suppose yourself to be in the centre of a multitude of dreamers, each slumbering fellow-mortal occupied with his own

dreams, and quite incapable of perceiving, far less of sharing, the dream of another. Here you have a partial parable of the insane in their relation to one another. It is not true of all (so wide are the diversities of the malady), yet is it wonderfully true of many, that the insane mind is analogous to that of the dreamer. Our imagination, never thoroughly subjected to our will, is quite emancipated in dreams, and then creates a fancied world, in which the most absurd sequences cause no surprise. Just so is it with the delusions of the insane, which succeed each other in combinations where all reasonable comparison of cause and effect is lost. They are in a world where causes are freely moving about without apparent effects, and where effects show themselves with no visible relation to any cause. Our problem is, then,

to give them back some notion of the reciprocal action of cause and effect; and this can best be done where the sane are more numerous than the demented, and where the action of natural causes is not obstructed to their minds by the presence of unreasoning and grotesque beings, acting from capricious motives, and alternately exciting and deadening the perceptive powers.

Keeping this inward principle in view, we shall cease to wonder why recoveries grow fewer in our carevansaries of the insane; our wonder is rather that any recover in such unfavorable surroundings. Colonization in small asylums, family care, and the most minute classification practicable, where congregation is unavoidable—these seem to me the conditions most favorable to curability.

A SUGGESTION FOR NURSES.

The private nurse is by no means altogether equipped for her work when she obtains the certificate of her training school. There are many other accomplishments beyond those of her profession which will make her a success and vastly increase the happiness of her life in private work, for the social qualities of the private nurse are an important factor. Just as a guest in a country house is the more valued because she is the happy possessor of one or two hobbies and accomplishments which serve to amuse and interest her hosts and their friends on long, dull, wintry days, so, too, will that nurse be prized who can bring some resources of entertainment to the rescue of patients during a long convalescence. In lodgings, in hotels, at seaside or health resort, it is a great boon to the invalid if "nurse is so clever at knowing just how to pass an hour or two pleasantly."

The scope of nursing accomplishments is boundless. One very successful nurse in private practice is an adept at poker work, and she literally charms away the convalescence of her patients by converting them into poker-work pupils. Young and old, masculine and feminine alike, her patients enter with zest into the decoration of blotting books and wooden bellows by means of the poker. She purposely uses only such simple designs as learners can easily acquire, and her patient-pupils declare their convalescent ordeal vanishes so pleasantly and quickly their only regret is that they can not pass through it all over again.

One young boy patient whom she nursed through the weary stages of a protracted case of phthisis, became under her guidance a most accom-

plished poker-worker; and his friends speak with the utmost gratitude of the nurse who afforded him so delightful an occupation during these many months of illness. His specimens of work are highly prized by his family in memento of him and of his very happy last days—days which would probably have proved long and dreary only for his kind teacher.

Another nurse, mindful of long, dull days when weather conditions prevent the respite of even a few minutes in the open air, has gathered together a marvelous collection of the "penny wonders" of the London streets. The mechanism of these and their puzzle properties afford days of interested entertainment to her patients. Indeed, one noted statesman when she was nursing offered her a large sum of money for her interesting collection. But she was not to be tempted. She kept them in the interests of a posterity of convalescents.

Another simple method of whiling away the time and helping a patient to forget a continuous pain—such as that of facial neuralgia, etc.—lies in the game of patience. This proves fascinating to all classes of sick people, and some nurses are perfect walking encyclopædias of the art of "patience" playing. Many persons who consider cards as a more or less sinful temptation to the flesh feel no hesitation in playing the game of "patience"—a game which grows in attraction the oftener it is played. Indeed, many people to whom card-playing is almost abhorrent engage without hesitation or qualm of conscience in Japanese or Chinese games of the most gambling nature when these are supplied by nurse or friends. The fact that these are eastern games robs them of their

traditional wickedness! The art of wood and fret carving is a more ambitious form of accomplishment, but several nurses who have attended technical classes in these subjects—and such classes are very general throughout the country—have acquired at very trifling cost a hobby delightful and useful to themselves, and proving a great boon to the sick people under their care. Many patients requiring the services of a trained nurse for many months are very pleased to acquire at their nurse's hands the simple forms of fretwork carving. It is a hobby offering a wide and varied field of interest.

It is hardly necessary to mention that simple, new kinds of fancy work, such as macramé and netting, will form a bond of sympathy between nurse and patient. "Crazy patchwork," ugly as this may be, has pleasantly tided over many a long convalescence. One private nurse who collects autographs, and another whose hobby lies in postage stamps, find these afford interest to patients—and they often come across collectors of both among their patients—this circumstance placing them at once *en rapport*. Such nurses frequently help their patients to rearrange various albums, and so pass away in congenial occupation otherwise dull hours.

Several private nurses who have a taste for collecting and mounting flower specimens find this interest affords much pleasure to their patients in cases when convalescence takes them to a new part of the country where interesting botanical specimens are to be met with.

A knowledge of books, so as to be able to select the literature most suited to the taste and temperament of one's patients, as well as a talent for reading aloud, will prove valuable to every private nurse. This article only sketches out a few of the talents which may help to bring happi-

ness to patients and success to private nurses. The subject is a large one, and the hobbies and accomplishments suggested therein admit of wide and varied scope according to the taste and talents of the individual nurse. It would be interesting if nurses would bear testimony as to the particular hobbies which they have found most pleasing and acceptable to their patients.—*The Hospital*.

THE FEEBLE-MINDED OF RHODE ISLAND.

[FROM THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.]

During the past year the attention of the board has been called to some discussion in the magazines of the day about the education of the feeble-minded, and to the fact that Rhode Island was reported as one of five states in the union making no provision for the care and training of this class of her people. It may be well, therefore, to give a brief history of the matter, and show exactly where we do stand.

With the inauguration of the present school system in 1845 provision was made for the education of the deaf and dumb, the blind, and the feeble-minded, an annual appropriation of \$1,500 was made, and a special commissioner was chosen to have charge of the matter. This law remained until 1851, when, in a general revision of the school law, the annual amount devoted to the work was raised to \$2,500, and the commissioner of public schools was charged with the duty of administering the law.

At the end of another six years, with a revision of the entire statute law, the duty of looking after these dependent children was laid upon the governor, in whose hands it remained for thirty-five years, or until 1892. In 1872 the annual appropriation was raised to \$3,000; in 1882 it was doubled and made \$6,000, and

in the same year a special school for the deaf was started by the state.

In 1892 a law was passed reorganizing the whole subject, placing the care and responsibility of the education of these children upon the board of education. During the few years preceding, the demands for the aid of the state had been constantly increasing, so that the statutory appropriations had ceased to be sufficient and special resolutions of the assembly were continually necessary to carry on the work; hence when the new law was passed it was found that about nine or ten thousand dollars were required annually. Accordingly in the new act the sum of \$12,000 was fixed as the amount available for the work.

Records of the extent of the work done in the past are very meagre. Of the doings of the first commissioner, the honorable Byron Diman, there are no data available, except in the report of the commissioner of public schools for 1851, honorable E. R. Potter, who gives a list of all who had received the benefits of the state aid from 1845 to 1850, inclusive. There were thirteen deaf and dumb in all, of whom five were at that time in the American asylum at Hartford, Connecticut, and ten blind persons in all, of whom six were still at the Perkins institution at south Boston, Massachusetts. Only three feeble-minded children up to that time had been placed in the school at south Boston. According to the report of 1852 seventeen children were at the three institutions, of whom four were feeble-minded. In 1855 there were six beneficiaries who were deaf and dumb, five who were blind, and only two feeble-minded. From some remarks made by one or two of the commissioners it is evident that the reason for the small number of feeble-minded beneficiaries was the general unwillingness on the part of parents to make known the circum-

stances, much less ask for public aid. It should be noted here that the annual charge at the different institutions was only about one-half what it now is, and, further, that up to 1857, when the matter was placed in the hands of the governor, there was no time when the annual appropriation was not more than enough to meet all demands upon it.

During the time when the matter was wholly in the hands of the governor, the secretary of state was often called upon to attend to the duties, and frequently reports of the aid given by the state to these dependent children, as well as to the insane, were made in print by the secretaries and included in the annual schedules. From these reports we learn that there was a steady growth in the number of the blind, but the number of the feeble-minded remained small. When the business was turned over to this board, in 1892, there were eighteen blind beneficiaries and six feeble-minded.

At the present time the board has upon its books twenty-seven blind and nineteen feeble-minded. During the five years since they took charge of the work they have enrolled thirty-eight of each class. Of these some have completed a full course of schooling and have graduated, some have been removed because they had derived all the benefit which the school, in the opinion of the superintendent, was able to give them, and a few have been withdrawn by their friends for various reasons.

These figures certainly show that Rhode Island is not only far from neglecting her feeble-minded children, but is giving them special attention. By the last printed report of the Massachusetts school for feeble-minded, at Waverly, we find that the four states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and

Rhode Island, have altogether twenty-seven pupils at that school. Twelve of that number come from this state, and when we remember that we have seven more at other institutions, it will be seen that Rhode Island, in comparison with her sister states, holds an honorable place.

As to the future of the work for the feeble-minded, we think the time is not far distant when the state should establish and maintain a school of its own for their care and training. There are, without question, many now in the state who are proper subjects for such attention, and who, if neglected, or simply permitted to grow up untrained, will ultimately prove serious charges upon the state. Many of them can undoubtedly be saved to lives of more or less full self-support, and comparative happiness and comfort. For those who can not be redeemed from the bondage of idiocy, it certainly seems unworthy of this age of civilization that they should be classed with the common pauper, and left to the scant treatment which must almost inevitably come to them. Certainly, no one who has visited the school at Waverly, where Massachusetts provides for this class of her people, will ever question the justice or wisdom of such a course.

The city of Providence has made a move in the direction of local care for these unfortunates by organizing

a day school in which are brought together some fifteen or more of these children who are more intelligent than the average feeble-minded child, but too deficient in mental ability to be taught successfully with the usual pupils. It is doubtful how far a day school can answer the demands in this direction, since many of the children lack knowledge and sense of responsibility sufficient to enable them to go to and from school, if it is any distance. But the experiment is well worth trying and will be watched with interest. The state will not be doing its full duty to itself and to its children until it shall have made such provision that every child, whatever his ability may be, has some opportunity given him for development and training.

The beneficiaries of the state are located as follows: Twenty-seven at the Perkins institution for the blind, south Boston, Massachusetts; one at the Connecticut institute and industrial home, Hartford, Connecticut; ten at the Massachusetts school for feeble-minded, Waverly, Massachusetts; six at the hospital cottages for children, Baldwinville, Massachusetts, and one at Pennsylvania training school for feeble-minded, Elwyn, Pennsylvania. With this number of claimants for our aid we shall be obliged to ask that the annual appropriation be increased to \$14,000.